

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 07258 161532Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 7258

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ILO, IS

SUBJ: ISRAELI PLANS TO REJECT ANTI-ISRAELI ILO RESOLUTION
AND LAUNCH CAMPAIGN TO COUNTER FURTHER ACTIONS
AGAINST ISRAEL

1. SUMMARY: DIRECTOR OF GOI MINISTRY OF LABOR,
ARYE GUR-EL, TOLD EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE DECEMBER
15 THAT ISRAEL PLANS TO REJECT ARAB-SPONSORED ANTI-
ISRAELI RESOLUTION (CONDEMNING ISRAELI LABOR PRACTICES
IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES) ADOPTED BY ILO CONFERENCE
LAST JUNE AND TO LAUNCH CAMPAIGN AGAINST FURTHER
ACTIONS IN ILO SPONSORED BY ARAB COUNTRIES AGAINST
ISRAEL. END SUMMARY.

2. GUR-EL STATED THAT DECISION WAS MADE JUST FEW
DAYS AGO TOGETHER WITH ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-
GENERAL OF MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MORDECHAI KIDRON.
HE ADDED THAT LABOR ATTACHE WAS AMONG FIRST TO KNOW
AND ASSUMED INFORMATION WOULD BE REPORTED TO WASHINGTON.

3. GUR-EL NOTED HIS DISAPPOINTMENT OVER FAILURE OF
ILO GOVERNING BODY AT NOVEMBER MEETING TO APPROVE
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 07258 161532Z

PROPOSAL TO SEND ILO REPRESENTATIVE TO ISRAEL UNDER

SPECIAL SURVEY PROCEDURES TO REVIEW ISRAELI TREATMENT OF ARAB WORKERS. WHILE SURVEY, ACCORDING TO GUR-EL, WAS NOT TO BE DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH ANTI-ISRAELI RESOLUTION, PROPOSAL WAS INTENDED BY ISRAEL AS CONCILIATORY MOVE TO DEFUSE IMPACT OF RESOLUTION. IN REJECTING ILO RESOLUTION, GUR-EL CLARIFIED THAT ISRAEL WOULD OPPOSE ANY ACTIONS STEMMING FROM RESOLUTION. HALF IN JEST, HE STATED THAT COMMUNICATIONS FROM ILO PERTAINING TO RESOLUTION WOULD BE RETURNED "ADDRESS UNKNOWN," AS RESOLUTION WAS DIRECTED TO "ISRAELI AUTHORITIES IN PALESTINE AND OTHER OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES."

4. IN EXPLAINING PLANNED CAMPAIGN AGAINST ANTI-ISRAEL DECISIONS BY ILO, GUR-EL CITED ACTIONS OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS, ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS AGAINST UNESCO FOLLOWING UNESCO ACTION CUTTING OFF ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL. GUR-EL BELIEVED THAT THESE ACTIONS, AS WELL AS VIEWS OF US AND WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AGAINST DOMINATION OF ARAB-AFRICAN-EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUPING IN WORLD ORGANIZATIONS, PROVIDED FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE FOR ISRAEL TO OBTAIN SOME MEASURE OF WORLD SUPPORT IN ILO.

5. GUR-EL REFERRED TO LIKELY SUPPORT OF AFL-CIO PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY SHOULD ILO TAKE FURTHER ACTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO CONGRESSIONAL ACTION CUTTING OFF FUNDING OF US PARTICIPATION IN ILO AND POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL OF US WORKER DELEGATE. HE ADDED THAT SOME WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES--POSSIBLY SCANDINAVIANS--MIGHT ALSO TAKE SIMILAR ACTIONS. WITHOUT SUPPORT OF MAJOR WESTERN INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES, ILO COULD NOT EXIST IN ITS PRESENT FORM, GUR-EL WARNED.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT YET HAD OPPORTUNITY TO GET CONFIRMATION FROM FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY ON GOI POSITION VIS-A-VIS ILO, DECISIONS OUTLINED BY GUR-EL SEEMS TO REFLECT DECISION TO INTENSIFY EFFORTS TO OPPOSE ANTI-ISRAELI ACTIONS IN WORLD ORGANIZATIONS AND SLOW MOMENTUM OF DOMINATION OF "AUTOMATIC MAJORITIES" IN CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 TEL AV 07258 161532Z

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